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## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

October, 1947.

### FRUIT.

#### Dessert Apples Comparatively Scarce and Dearer.

Offering of apples from growing areas of New South Wales were again light and supplies from interstate sources were insufficient to meet the needs of the retail trade. Most prices were slightly higher than those recorded previously, particularly towards the close of the month. Representative quotations were as follow:—*New South Wales*: Delicious 20s. to 44s., few 46s.; Democrat 14s. to 26s., few 28s.; Crofton 24s. to 36s.; Granny Smith 18s. to 34s., late sales 36s. to 38s.; *Tasmanian*: Democrat 14s. to 24s.; Yates 20s. to 27s.; Granny Smith 22s. to 28s.; *Western Australian*: Yates 20s. to 24s.; Granny Smith 22s. to 29s.; *Victorian*: Delicious 20s. to 32s.; Rome Beauty 20s. to 28s.; Jonathan 18s. to 24s.; Yates 22s. to 28s.; Munro Favorite 20s. to 24s.; Rokewood 16s. to 23s.; Statesman 20s. to 26s.; Granny Smith 18s. to 30s.; Dunn's Seedling 12s. to 16s., few 18s. to 22s. per bushel case. A percentage of bruised, inferior and generally unattractive fruit was disposed of at rates well below top market values.

#### Decline in Quality of Pears Apparent.

Most of the pears on offer during the month were received from Victoria, only small quantities coming to hand from New South Wales growers and from Tasmania. A large percentage of the weekly consignments opened up in a ripe and "skin blemished" condition; sellers experienced considerable difficulty in maintaining clearances of this class of fruit each week and some lines were carried over, resulting in considerable wastage. Although market prices generally were only slightly lower than those obtained at the close of the previous period, many reductions were made for transactions involving pears not of choice quality. Representative quotations were as follow:—*New South Wales*: Packham's Triumph 10s. to 16s., special 18s., few 20s. to 22s.; Winter Cole 8s. to 18s.; *Victorian*: Packham's Triumph 6s. to 14s., special 15s. to 18s.; Josephine 6s. to 14s., special 16s., few, 18s.; Winter Cole, 8s. to 16s., special 18s., few higher; Winter Nelis, 6s. to 14s.; *Tasmanian*: Winter Nelis, 10s. to 18s. per bushel case.

#### First Apricots Available.

New season's apricots commenced to come to hand from coastal and near-metropolitan districts in the last few days of October. Earliest receipts brought as much as 20s., and occasionally slightly more, per quarter bushel case, but, as the quantities increased, the market receded and at closing most sales ranged from 5s. to 12s., with specially selected large fruit to 14s.

**Few New Season's Cherries Arrive.**

Small quantities of new season's cherries from the Lakesland region were received in the latter half of the month. High prices were asked for the first few boxes on offer, but inquiry was dull and sellers quickly reduced rates. Some sales were made at 30s. per quarter case, but most of the supplies were sold at from 18s. to 24s.

**Bananas More Plentiful and Cheaper.**

Increased consignments of bananas came to hand from the far North Coast to augment the 7,200 cases received from Queensland. Prices receded gradually throughout the month, particularly for the smaller sizes which were plentiful. Quotations at closing were as follow: Cavendish 8 in.-9 in., 42s. to 45s., few higher; sevens, 34s. to 42s.; sixes, 25s. to 34s., few 36s.; small and inferior from 20s.; Lady Finger (large), 35s. to 45s.; (small) 20s. to 30s. per banana case.

**Valencia Oranges Well Supplied but Stocks of Navels Decline.**

Daily receivals of Valencia oranges from coastal districts were fairly large. However, choice Navels became increasingly scarce as the month advanced, and the retail demand generally was for the Valencia variety. Values showed only slight fluctuations due to temporary shortages on some selling days, and quotations for medium sized fruit ranged mainly from 6s. to 10s. per bushel case, whilst choice large brought 12s. to 14s., with a few special brands to 16s. Towards closing very small fruit was over-supplied. A gradual decline in the quality and the quantity of Navels received from coastal districts and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area was apparent. On occasions as much as 24s. per bushel case was obtained for choicest packs, but in the latter half of the period under review most transactions took place within the range of 10s. to 16s., with best quality lines to 20s. Realisations for other oranges on offer were as follows: Valencia (plain), 4s. to 8s., few to 10s.; Navel (second crop), 6s. to 10s., few to 14s.; Murray Valley, 6s. to 12s., early sales choice to 20s.; Joppa and Siletta, 5s. to 9s. per bushel case.

**Rates for Lemons Remain Low.**

Stocks of lemons were in excess of the limited requirements of the retail trade on all selling days. Factory buyers did not operate to any extent and the market generally showed no improvement, most quotations varying from 3s. to 5s. per bushel case, although packs of choice quality brought 6s. to 7s., when sold in small quantities.

**Mandarin Supplies Decline.**

A gradual falling off in the size and quality of offerings of Emperor mandarins was apparent. Rates again covered a wide range according to size and quality but best packs continued to bring from 20s. to 24s. per bushel case.

**Offerings of Passion Fruit Lighter and Values Advance.**

Consignments of passionfruit declined throughout the month and prices showed a corresponding increase from week to week. Early in the period choice packs brought 20s. to 24s. per half case but, after a gradual advance to 34s., prices rose sharply in the last few days of the month to reach 40s. Closing quotations ranged from 34s. to 40s. for choice lines, with medium to good grades from 25s. to 32s. Some inferior were lower.

**Local Strawberries Replace Queensland Stocks.**

Consignments of strawberries from Queensland ceased during the month, and greatly increased supplies were forward from local growing areas. Representative quotations were as follow:—Queensland 18s. to 30s., few special to 42s., inferior lower per dozen packets; Local 12s. to 24s., special 30s. to 36s., few 42s., per dozen punnets.

**Papaws Cheaper.**

Increased supplies of papaws, amounting to 12,600 tropical cases, were received from Queensland. The market receded by approximately 4s. per tropical case and remained fairly stable at the new level. Rates varied principally from 8s. to 14s., with special packs 15s. to 16s. and occasionally 18s., per tropical case.

**Pineapples Generally Dearer.**

Smaller quantities of pineapples came to hand from Queensland, approximately 28,650 tropical cases being available. The market showed little fluctuation, as receivals were fairly regular, but a gradual increase in prices from week to week was apparent. At opening, realisations ranged mainly from 14s. to 24s. per tropical case, but in the latter half of the month choice packs brought from 20s. to 30s. and occasionally higher according to size, whilst some very small and inferior lots were available from 15s.

**Other Fruit.**

Representative ranges of prices for other lines of fruit on offer were as follow:—Mulberries (Local) 4s. to 6s., special 8s. to 9s. per dozen punnets. Loquats 12s. to 22s., few special higher, very small and inferior lower, per half bushel case. Grapefruit (Coastal and M.I.A.) 4s. to 10s., special to 14s., few higher, Other N.S.W. 12s. to 18s.; Rock Melons (Queensland) 8s. to 14s., early sales to 20s., few higher, per bushel case.

## VEGETABLES.

### **Prices for Peas Remain at Moderate Levels.**

Supplies of peas during October were lighter than for the previous month. Quantities offering in the producers' section of the market were considerably smaller, whilst consignments to agents, totalling approximately 42,000 bags, showed only a slight increase. The market was fairly stable throughout the period and, although as much as 20s. per bushel was obtained for choice green lines on most selling days, rates, at most times, varied from 5s. to 16s. according to quality. As a result of dry weather conditions in the growing areas, choice green lines represented only a small percentage of the total supply, most lots being at least slightly bleached on arrival.

### **Beans More Plentiful and Generally Cheaper.**

A decline in the size of consignments of beans from Queensland, which totalled 1,850 cases and 7,300 sugar bags, was more than offset by greatly increased receivals from New South Wales growing areas, which amounted to approximately 22,000 bags. Supplies showed the effects of dry weather in the growing areas and choice lines were comparatively scarce on most selling days. Generally, choice brought from 16s. to 20s. and on occasions to 22s. per bushel, but in the third week of the month a temporary drop in prices occurred and few sales for choice exceeded 14s. Medium to good grades brought mainly from 5s. to 14s., except during the week mentioned above, whilst some inferior and very dry lots were unsalable.

### **Sharp Advance in Prices for Tomatoes During the Month.**

Larger supplies of Local Glasshouse tomatoes were forward and these were supplemented by greatly increased consignments from the northern coastal districts of New South Wales, particularly the Coff's Harbour region, which totalled more than 135,000 half-cases. Receivals from Queensland, however, declined, only 45,800 half-cases coming to hand. Total offerings generally were far in excess of requirements of retailers and of the country order trade, but considerable purchases were made for transfer to the Melbourne market and, as a result, rates showed a gradual advance during the first half of the month, reaching their peak on Thursday, 16th October, when best Glasshouse lines brought 38s. to 40s. per half bushel case. Subsequently, however, the market dropped sharply on two occasions and in the closing week large Glasshouse tomatoes brought principally from 8s. to 18s., with small packed fruit from 6s. and very small and inferior lower. Realisations for consignments from northern coastal districts showed a corresponding variation, best coloured lines bringing 36s. to 38s. on 16th October and dropping to a maximum of 18s. at the close of the period. Final quotations for coloured ranged from 6s. to 16s., with special 18s., whilst mature green brought from 6s. to 12s., with special 14s. to 16s. per half case. A marked decline in the quality of Queensland consignments was apparent, and although some high prices were

obtained when the market was at its peak, closing quotations ranged mainly from 4s. to 10s. Sellers, however, were agreed that only the continued purchases for transfer to the Melbourne market enabled values to be maintained at fairly high levels.

**Cabbages Dearer.**

Choice large cabbages were comparatively scarce on most selling days and brought from 12s. to 14s., and occasionally to 18s. per dozen. Stocks of other grades were sufficient for requirements and realised from 3s. to 10s.

**Receivals of Cauliflowers Decline.**

A marked falling off in the size and quality of the consignments of cauliflowers offered in the producers' market was apparent. Prices advanced sharply early in the month and were maintained thereafter at high levels. Closing quotations ranged from 8s. to 18s. per dozen for medium heads, and from 20s. to 30s. for choice large. Some very small and inferior were available from 2s.

**Lettuce Over-Supplied at Closing.**

Stocks of lettuce were more than sufficient for requirements on most selling days. Although as much as 10s. per case was obtained on a few occasions, most sales ranged from 2s. 6d. to 7s. according to quality. In the last week of the month, supplies were much heavier and only isolated realisations exceeded 5s.

**Other Main Vegetable Lines.**

Representative quotations for other main vegetable lines were as follow: Broad Beans, 2s. to 4s., few 5s. to 6s. per bushel; Carrots, 5s. to 12s., special, 14s., few sales to 18s.; Parsnips, 5s. to 12s., special 14s., few higher; Swedes, 4s. to 10s., choice 12s., few 14s.; Potatoes (No. 1 grade), 10s. (fixed maximum price); Onions (Queensland) White, 18s. to 22s., early sales to 25s., brown and white mixed 16s. to 20s., early sales to 24s.; Sweet Potatoes, 6s. to 16s., occasional sales to 22s.; Pumpkins, 6s. to 14s., occasional sales to 22s. per cwt.; Celery (local), 2s. to 8s., late sales to 12s., few higher, per dozen bunches, (South Australian) 12s. to 20, special brands 22s. to 24s., late sales to 30s. per crate.

T. McKEON.

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**SALES OF FARM PRODUCE AT ALEXANDRIA AND  
SUSSEX STREET, SYDNEY.**

**October, 1947.**

**Further Increase in Interstate Potato Consignments.**

A total of 147,394 bags was on offer compared with 142,826 bags in September. The receivals included 87,074 bags from Tasmania at Sussex-street (64,141 bags were forward last month) which consisted mainly of No. 1 Grade Brownells, with a few Bismarcks, Snowflakes and Arranchiefs. Victorian supplies at Alexandria amounted to 59,118 bags of No. 1 Grade Carmans and Snowflakes. Of this quantity approximately 7,000 bags were